

Proposed Amendment of Title 5 Section 80020.1, California Code of Regulations, Concerning Additional Assignment Authorizations for Specialist Teaching Credentials in Learning and Severely Handicapped

April 17, 2003

Summary

This item proposes an amendment to Title 5 Regulations concerning additional assignment authorizations for specific special education credentials for holders of Ryan Specialist Teaching Credentials in Learning and Severely Handicapped.

Fiscal Impact

There will be a minor cost to the agency related to disseminating the information to colleges and universities, school districts, and county offices of education and holding a public hearing. Such costs are contained within the budget of the Certification, Assignment and Waivers Division.

Policy Issues to be Resolved

Should the Commission permit additional assignment authorizations for specific special education credentials?

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the amendment to California Code of Regulations, Title 5 Section 80020.1, pertaining to additional assignment authorizations for specific special education credentials for purposes of beginning the rulemaking file for submission to the Office of Administrative Law and scheduling a public hearing.

Background

In January of 2003, the Commission approved the addition of Title 5 Section 80020.1 to align the authorizations of both pre-Ryan special education credentials with the current Ryan Education Specialist Credential and the authorization for the low incidence disability areas for the Ryan Specialist Teaching Credential through the use of an assignment option. The assignment option allows local employing agencies to assign special education credential holders to serve students ages birth to preschool consistent with the special education subject area of their credential if the teacher meets the requirements of the regulations and also has the requisite knowledge and skills to serve in the assignment. Teacher consent is also required.

During the public hearing process, one of the professional organizations responding to the regulations pointed out that the Ryan Specialist Teaching Credential in Learning and Severely Handicapped should have been included in the realignment process. Since 1997, when the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Specialist Credential and Certificate were created, which authorizes service to mild/moderate and moderate/severe students ages birth to pre-K, there has been some confusion in the field regarding the definition of "preschool" and whether an individual who held a

Ryan Specialist Teaching Credential in Learning and Severely Handicapped would need to obtain the Early Childhood Education Specialist Certificate to serve students birth to pre- K.

Proposed Amendment of Title 5 Regulations

Since there has been some confusion in the field concerning the “grade level” authorization for the Ryan Specialist Teaching Credential in Learning and Severely Handicapped, staff is recommending to align these subject areas with the authorization of the Ryan Education Specialist Certificate for Early Childhood Special Education if the individual meets the experience requirements in the regulations.

This proposal would allow local employing agencies to authorize individuals to serve mild/moderate and moderate/severe students ages birth to preschool. The individual must have three years of prior teaching experience at the age level and in the disability area authorized by the credential. The July 1, 2003 date allows employers to continue to assign teachers with the three years of special education experience but would not allow “new” individuals to qualify for this option. Teachers who do not have the three years of appropriate experience must obtain the ECSE Certificate for service to mild/moderate and moderate/severe students.

Title 5 Section 80020.1. Additional Assignment Authorizations for Specific Special Education Credentials

- (a) The holder of the following credentials may be assigned, with his or her consent, to teach preschool age students in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential. The holder must have successfully taught preschool age students for a minimum of three years prior to July 1, 2003 in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential:
 - (1) Standard Elementary and Standard Secondary Teaching Credential with a minor in Mentally Retarded,
 - (2) Standard Limited Specialized Preparation Teaching Credential with a major in Mentally Retarded,
 - (3) Exceptional Children Teaching Credential with a major in Mentally Retarded,
 - (4) Standard Restricted Teaching Credential with a minor in Trainable Mentally Retarded or Educable Mentally Retarded, and
 - (5) Special Secondary Teaching Credential with a major in Mentally Retarded.
- (b) The holder of the following credentials may be assigned, with his or her consent, to teach students ages birth to preschool in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential. The holder must have successfully taught students ages birth to preschool for a minimum of three years prior to July 1, 2003 in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential:

- (1) Standard Elementary and Standard Secondary Teaching Credential with a minor in Speech and Hearing Handicapped, Deaf and Severely Hard-of-Hearing, Visually Handicapped, or Orthopedically Handicapped Including the Cerebral Palsied,
- (2) Standard Limited Specialized Preparation Teaching Credential with a major in Speech and Hearing Handicapped, Deaf and Severely Hard-of-Hearing, Visually Handicapped, or Orthopedically Handicapped Including the Cerebral Palsied,
- (3) Exceptional Children Teaching Credential with a major in Speech Correction and Lip Reading, Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing, Visually Handicapped, or Orthopedically Handicapped Including the Cerebral Palsied,
- (4) Standard Restricted Teaching Credential with a minor in Speech and Hearing Therapy, Deaf and Severely Hard-of-Hearing, Visually Handicapped, Orthopedically Handicapped Including the Cerebral Palsied, Deaf-Blind, or Severely Hard-of-Hearing, and
- (5) Special Secondary Teaching Credential with a major in Correction of Speech Defects, Deaf, Lip Reading, or Partially Sighted Child, and Blind.
- (c) The holder of the following credentials may be assigned, with his or her consent, to teach students ages birth to preschool in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential. The holder must have successfully taught students ages birth to preschool for a minimum of three years prior to July 1, 2003 in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential:
 - (1) Specialist Instruction Teaching Credential with a major in Communication Handicapped, Physically Handicapped or Visually Handicapped: and
 - (2) Specialist Instruction Teaching Credential with a major in Learning Handicapped or Severely Handicapped.

Note: Authority cited: Section 44225(q), Education Code. Reference: Sections 44225(b) and 44225(e), Education Code.